

**MINUTES
LANCASTER COUNTY BOARD OF CORRECTIONS
QUARTERLY MEETING
COUNTY-CITY BUILDING
MEETING ROOM #113
THURSDAY, JULY 29, 1999
8:30 A.M.**

Commissioners Present: Kathy Campbell, Chair
Bernie Heier
Linda Steinman
Bob Workman

Commissioners Absent: Larry Hudkins

Others Present: Michael Thurber, Corrections Director
Kerry Eagan, Chief Administrative Officer
Bruce Medcalf, County Clerk
Gwen Thorpe, Deputy County Clerk
Melissa Koci, County Clerk's Office

Heier opened the Board of Corrections meeting.

AGENDA ITEM

1 APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF THE DECEMBER 17, 1998 BOARD OF CORRECTIONS MEETING

MOTION: Campbell moved and Steinman seconded approval of the minutes. On call Workman, Steinman, Campbell and Heier voted aye. Hudkins was absent.

2 POPULATION STATISTICS

Mike Thurber, Corrections Director, briefly reviewed population statistics for the jail and the Lancaster Correctional Facility (LCF) (Exhibit 1), noting that the average daily population is 209. He indicated there are currently 237 beds, but 33 have to be females, in order to use all the beds. Thurber said the total number of bookings for Fiscal Year 1999 was 9,845 and in 1993 when he started, it was 9,201 and it is not because they are booking more, it is because the inmates are being kept longer. His reasoning for the longer stay is prosecution and courts take a little longer, there are more serious crimes and the inmates tend to stay in the facility longer.

Steinman questioned the number of felony arrests and felony sentencings and it being a big difference.

Thurber reported they average 14 felony sentences a month and 97 felony arrests a month, along with 510 misdemeanor arrests and 103 misdemeanants sentenced. He said they've also discussed sentenced individuals sitting out fines.

Campbell suggested to Thurber to work with Kathy Smith, Purchasing, and develop an RFP to look at population studies.

Steinman said they need to work on whatever they can to keep people out of the facility, like they are doing with the Attention Center.

Campbell asked if a copy of the Corrections reports and graphs go to the Justice Council.

Thurber said no.

Campbell suggested writing a letter under Mike Thurber and Bernie Heier's signature saying that the County Board is going to start on an RFP process to redo the assessment in Adult Corrections and in order to prepare people for that, the quarterly reports and minutes of the Board of Corrections will be sent to you.

Heier questioned the large amount of days spent at the jail by some prisoners.

Thurber said he sends a 30-day letter every month to the County Judges, County Attorney and County Board listing all people that have been in jail for a long period of time.

Campbell suggested writing a letter to the Mayor and City Council inviting them on a tour of the Correction Facility.

Steiman asked Thurber if he has a policy for treating non-adjudicated defendants differently than adjudicated.

Thurber said he looks at behavior, institutional history, how they get along with Corrections and medical issues to determine the classification.

3 LEGISLATIVE MATTERS

Thurber reported LB695 took effect on July 1, 1999, which will provide \$35 per day housing reimbursement to Lancaster County felons and Class I misdemeanors who are ultimately sentenced to State facilities or placed on probation. He also said that although probation information is not currently available on which to base revenue projections, an additional \$250,000 has been placed in the Corrections budget for the reimbursement.

4 OTHER ITEMS

Housing of Juveniles

Thurber reported he is still meeting with the County Attorney and Attention Center regarding housing of offenders from the Attention Center that cannot be housed there. He indicated representatives from the County Attorney, Attention Center and Corrections are developing a classification mechanism to screen all juvenile offenders to determine proper placement according to their security risk.

Computer Systems

Thurber said Corrections finally converted to the VAX system after 3 years, however, there is concern regarding on-going processing and storage costs, even though one month of actual data is available. He said the first bill he received from Information Services was 3 times what was expected and if it keeps up, Corrections will be \$60,000 over budget.

Steinman said there may be some capitalization costs that will cover some of the costs and that Central Services will keep track of what the usages and needs are and then the costs may change in relation to others.

LCF Construction Program Activities

Thurber stated the inmate construction crews finished demolition work of 66,000 square feet at the Children's Museum. He also said work began on the renovation of the Detox Center where inmate labor is being used for demolition and framing of areas on the first floor of the facility.

Thurber reported other outside activities include moving surplus equipment for a Purchasing auction and rearranging those storage areas, Records work with Brian Pillard and demo work at the old Whitehall school for UNL. He said they are continuing to do work for HVAC at Airpark and his plan, with the Board's support, is to go east of the Airpark facility and put in a well field.

Offender Transport

Thurber reported 1,831 County and City offenders were transported by Corrections staff to various courts during the second quarter.

Outside Contracts

Thurber said the County Board approved the renewal of the food vendor and inmate phone systems contracts for a 3-year period and he is currently working with Kathy Smith, Purchasing, on a County-wide RFP for pharmaceutical services.

Recruitment/Training Activities

Thurber said they are still looking at recruiting additional Correctional Officers, but right now they are currently at capacity.

5 NEW BUSINESS

Fingerprint Repair Invoice

Thurber reported PrinTrak International has not defined their invoice for the replacement of the CPU that failed after the jail's power outage. He said PrinTrak has currently requested a payment of \$8,688.

Food Bank Drive

Thurber noted the Corrections Department donated over 7,000 pounds and a small amount of cash to this year's Food Bank drive. He said the inmate crew picked up and delivered all of the City/County Department's food donations for the Food Bank.

6 ADJOURNMENT

At the direction of the chair the Board of Corrections meeting was adjourned.

Bruce Medcalf
Lancaster County Clerk